ARKANSAS BROILER HATCHERY

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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ARKANSAS CHICK PLACEMENTS DOWN 3 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

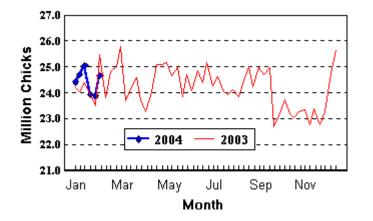
Broiler-type chicks placed for meat production in Arkansas was 24.7 million during the week ending February 7, 2004. Placements were down 3 percent from the comparable week in 2003, but up 3 percent from the previous week, and included 3.0 million chicks shipped in from other states. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through February 7, 2004 were 146.8 million, up 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.

The broiler-type chicks hatched for the week was 25.8 million, up 1 percent from the corresponding week a year earlier, and up slightly from the previous week. Of the total hatch, 3.7 million chicks were shipped out of the state. Average hatchability for chicks hatched was 82.4 percent.

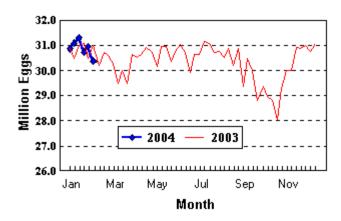
Arkansas hatcheries set 30.4 million broiler-type eggs during the week ending February 7, 2004, down 2 percent from both the same period last year, and also from the previous week.

	NET :	PLACEME	NTS	CHIC	CKS HATC	HED	EGGS SET			
Week			%			%			%	
Ending	2003	2004	Change	2003	2004	Change	2003	2004	Change	
	1,	000		1,	000		1,000			
Jan. 3	24,244	24,457	101	24,836	25,455	102	30,873	30,893	100	
Jan. 10	24,081	24,747	103	24,771	25,312	102	30,485	31,084	102	
Jan. 17	24,397	25,061	103	24,693	25,677	104	31,023	31,324	101	
Jan. 24	23,950	23,942	100	25,618	25,486	99	31,087	30,728	99	
Jan. 31	23,524	23,910	102	25,325	25,719	102	30,468	30,944	102	
Feb. 7	25,475	24,701	97	25,519	25,821	101	30,994	30,374	98	

CHICKS PLACED IN ARKANSAS, 2003-2004



EGGS SET, 2003 - 2004



BROILEREGGS SET AND CHICKS PLACED IN 19 MAJOR STATES BY WEEKS, 2004

	ECGS SET (in Thousands)					CHICKSPLACED (in Thousands)							
	Week Ending				1/	Week Ending							
STATE	17-Jan	24-Jan	31-Jan	07-Feb	%	03-Jan	10-Jan	17-Jan	24-Jan	31-Jan	07-Feb	%	
Alabama	29,293 *	29,462	29,084	29,171	107	21,775	21,719	21,967	22,008	22,264	21,502	101	
ARKANSAS	31,324	30,728	30,944	30,374	98	24,457	24,747	25,061	23,942	23,910	24,701	97	
Delaware	3,829	3,917	3,624	3,710	106	4,201	4,224	5,447	5, 3 97	5,369 *	4,860	103	
Florida	1,359	1,364	1,347	1,364	85	1,736	1,609	1,637	1,561	1,603	1,859	133	
Georgia	33,059 *	32,451	33,063	33,374	108	26,469	24,976	26,153	25,937	25,636	25,780	101	
Kentucky	6,517	5,619	6,459 *	7,254	108	5,885	5,742	5,541	5,744	5,254 *	5,592	105	
Maryland	8,868	8,680	8,840 *	8,570	87	6,470	6,186	4,842	4,698	5,461 *	5,508	88	
Mississippi	19,344	18,957	19,207	18,928	102	16,528	16,012	16,632	16,314	16,402 *	16,598	107	
N. Carolina	17,817 *	17,855	17,573	18,097	100	14,162	14,017	14,115	13,863	14,303 *	14,056	97	
Oktahoma	6,247	6,423	5,655	6,338	99	5,505	4,995	4,471	4,648	5,250	4,902	115	
Pennsylvania	3,667	3,749 *	3,501	3,694	107	2,612	2,591	2,626	2,533 *	2,527	2,631	106	
S. Carolina	3,702	3,683	3,646 *	3,638	75	3,776	4,437	3,467	4,308	4,204 *	4,087	113	
Texas	14,798 *	14,785 *	14,754 *	14,785	103	11,457	11,999 *	12,018 *	11,865 *	12,098 *	12,165	102	
Virginia	6,230	6,266	6,129	6,363	98	5,386	5,088	4,798	4,779	4,751	5,634	100	
CA,LA,MO,TN,WV	20,673 *	<u>20,801</u>	20,554 *	20,986	<u>10</u> 7	17 <u>,979</u>	18 <u>,427</u> *	17 <u>,754</u> *	17 <u>,918</u> *_	_19 <u>,061</u> *	<u> 18,904</u>	<u>11</u> 0 .	
Total 2004	206,727 *	204,740 *	204,380 *	206,646		168,398	166,769 *	166,529 *	165,515 *	168,093 *	168,779		
Total 2003	202,802	<u>204,707</u>	203,905	202,772		164,413	<u>162,132</u>	<u>163,604</u>	1 <u>66,0</u> 45	166,420 _	<u>16</u> 4 <u>,887</u>		
%Prev. Year	102	100	100	102		102	103	102	100	101	102		
Approximate Marketing Date 2004													

^{*} Revised. If Current week as percent of the same week last year.

EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP 2 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-state weekly program set 207 million eggs during the week ending February 7, 2004. This was up 2 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED UP 2 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-state weekly program placed 169 million chicks for meat production during the week ending February 7, 2004. Placements were up 2 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through February 7, 2004 were 1.00 billion, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.